

### **REMARKS**

It is noted with appreciation that the Examiner has allowed claims 13-15, 19 and 27-30 and has helpfully provided suggestion as to how to amend rejected independent claims 1 and 16. Claims 1 and 16 are amended in accordance with the substance of the Examiner's suggestions. Minor additional amendment is made to claims 1, 13, 16 and 19 to improve the clarity thereof. More particularly, as to the minor amendments, claims 1, 13, 16 and 19 are amended to recite "said optical fiber" (or "the optical fiber") in the manner indicated in the attached listing of the claim amendments. No new matter is added by any of the amendments.

The rejected claims are now understood to be in condition for allowance.

Allowance and passage to issue of the case is respectfully requested.

### **CONCLUSION**

This Response attends to all issues raised in the outstanding Office Communication. No fee is considered to be due in conjunction with the submission of this Response and Amendment. However, if an additional fee is determined to be due in association with the filing of this Response and Amendment, or if an underpayment or overpayment of a fee is made, authorization is hereby granted to charge or credit, as appropriate, Nufern Deposit Account No. 502343.

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned if any issues are deemed to remain unresolved.

Dated: December 16, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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